

1 the interest of the market to break them up to
2 make the market more competitive, to help
3 capitalism, to improve capitalism. And that's,
4 that's -- I think that's what we need.

5 We need to realize that further media
6 consolidation is anticompetitive, anticapitalism,
7 and we are headed towards a merging of
8 corporatism and government, and we know this.
9 It's pretty obvious. These aren't even American
10 companies. We're allowing international
11 corporations to influence our military leaders.
12 They're watching CNN. They are feeding on their
13 own propaganda, and they don't know it sometimes,
14 so it's a very dangerous situation.

15 The reason why I came here, the main
16 reason, is because I want you to, I want you to
17 compare the coverage of Dennis Kucinich's
18 impeachment proposal with the coverage of
19 Clinton's impeachment proceedings.**JM and Tape 5
20 of 6 stop** And there's probably a good number
21 of people here that don't even realize that
22 Kucinich proposed the impeachment of Vice

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1 President Cheney just a few days ago. I didn't
2 watch the news tonight. You probably didn't
3 either as you were busy. But the last few days I
4 didn't. Maybe it was on tonight.

5 Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

8 Clare Beach.

9 MS. BEACH: My name is Clare Beach,
10 and I've come to you as a parent and a teacher.
11 In 1988 was my first experience with knowing
12 about the FCC was right after Reagan acted to
13 regulate television, especially children's
14 television. I had just had my first and only
15 child who was a boy. And he -- I wanted -- They
16 had cartoons that were a half hour long cartoons
17 that were selling products. You may remember
18 that time. They made a show like GI Joe Has Got
19 to Go.

20 Ever since then, I have been what I
21 feel like is protecting and defending children
22 against the media. I do media literacy. That's

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1 my passion. That's my love. That's what I teach.
2 Kids come into my classroom to do a news show.
3 They have kind of things that they want to do,
4 kind of the superficial things they see on the
5 news.

6 My job is to help them understand the
7 in-depth, the investigative piece they don't see
8 anywhere. They know more about Paris Hilton than
9 they know about (unintelligible.) They know more
10 about Britney Spears than they know about the
11 elections happening. That breaks my heart.

12 My job with them is that -- what I
13 hope is when they leave my class they'll say
14 you've ruined television for me because I have to
15 think about it.

16 Your job makes my job -- your job in
17 continuing media monopolization is making our
18 jobs as media teachers -- trying to change kids
19 lives. Have them take back some power in their
20 lives. They're overwhelmed by media. They're
21 overwhelmed. It's everywhere they go. It's on
22 buses. You know, it's on their clothes. It's

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1 everywhere.

2 They need help from you guys. I know
3 that you all may have children, grandchildren,
4 nieces, and nephews. But I'm telling you, watch
5 what they watch. Sit down with them and watch
6 the stuff they're watching. And we're not having
7 -- They're not getting protected in that way.
8 And they are not citizens because they don't have
9 the information. They don't have the information
10 to really be able to go out there and make a
11 definite decision.

12 I beg you as a parent, as a teacher,
13 to do something to try to take back media from
14 the conglomeration.

15 Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

18 Mark Holland, Mira Latoszek, Ezra
19 Basom, Gopala Krishman Parameswaran, Lisa Wright,
20 Jason Farhman, S. Arsalan Bukhari.

21 AUDIENCE: Number?

22 MODERATOR SIGALOS: 248.

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1 MR. BUKARI: Good evening. Thanks for
2 being here and I appreciate you being here this
3 late in the evening. It must take a lot of your
4 energy. I want to respond.

5 I'm S. Arsalan Bukhari. I'm an
6 American Muslim here in Seattle. There are about
7 75,000 Muslims in Washington State, just to kind
8 of give you an idea of the population here. I am
9 very concerned as an American Muslim. We're a
10 religious minority who is at the moment being,
11 you know, attacked from all sides in the news
12 media, you know, in the entertainment media,
13 that's kind of -- the news media has been turned
14 into.

15 We are making efforts to have a low
16 powered FM station to express our views about
17 Islam and teaching the public accurate
18 information on Islam. Media consolidation has
19 made it very tough. The fees of low powered FM
20 station has gone up, skyrocketed. There is two
21 weeks once a year that the window is open. It's
22 not advertised. Nobody really knows when that

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1 window is open so you can go apply for that
2 station or for the airways, which should be free
3 as a general rule.

4 I'm also with the Council of American
5 Islam Relations, Seattle Chapter. We receive
6 about 45 civil right cases. We suspect that
7 they're from all this anti-Islam anti-Muslim
8 rhetoric that is from the media. Michael Savage
9 on October 29th told his audience -- He went on a
10 tirade telling them to take scarves off the
11 females that he sees in the grocery stores, ask
12 people what their religion is really about. And
13 then addressing Muslims directly he said, "Take
14 your book and shove it up your behind." Those
15 are the things he is saying.

16 Media consolidation makes it very
17 tough for us to combat that kind of rhetoric and
18 that kind of, you know, hate inciting talk.
19 Those are the two concerns out I bring out.

20 I bring the first concern to
21 summarize, that it is tough for us to make our
22 voices heard by having low powered FM station.

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1 Second, it is tough for us to fight this kind of
2 rhetoric because the stations that he is on are
3 very powerful. The advertisers that he
4 represents are very powerful. Thank you very much
5 for listening.

6 (Applause.)

7 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Mark Sabo,
8 George Atherton.

9 MR. ATHERTON: Journalism ideally
10 exists to monitor the halls of power, while the
11 mass media exists to sell products to those who
12 walk the halls of power. These two goals are
13 mutually exclusive, and when executives have one
14 foot in each sector, a schizophrenic and deadly
15 conflict of interest arises.

16 Members of the boards of directors of
17 news corporations also sit on the boards of
18 weapons manufacturers and other companies with
19 vested interests around the world. General
20 Electric is the third largest military contractor
21 and also the owner of NBC News Network.

22 Back in 1950 Charles Wilson, General

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1 Electric's board chairman, addressed the
2 Newspaper Publisher's Association, quote, "If the
3 people were not convinced that the free world is
4 in mortal danger, it would be impossible for
5 Congress to vote the vast sums now being spent to
6 avert this danger. But the support of public
7 opinion as marshalled by the press, we are off to
8 a good start. It is our job, yours and mine, to
9 keep our people convinced that the only way to
10 keep disaster away from our shores is to build up
11 America's might."

12 Though Wilson may have said it nearly
13 60 years ago, this is exactly the same message GE
14 and others have used in the present day to
15 embroil us in a disastrous war for the benefit
16 of a few elite sitting on the top.

17 In 2000, GE, Time Warner, News
18 Corporation, Viacom and others shared lobbyist
19 representation in Washington with Lockheed
20 Martin, one of the largest weapons -- the world's
21 largest weapons contractor, Lockheed Martin has
22 since been reaping immense profits from the war

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1 in Iraq at the expense of the lives of nearly
2 4,000 U.S. troops and over one million Iraqi
3 civilians.

4 At home News Corp and GE shared
5 lobbyists with Enron a year before the scandal
6 that fleeced thousands of its employees. These
7 are just a handful of the examples of the
8 unacceptable, incestuous relationships between
9 defense contractors, energy companies, and the
10 mainstream media.

11 We, the people, deserve better than
12 exploitation by a handful of corrupt white men.
13 We deserve to have our tax dollars invested in
14 education, in social justice, not in cluster
15 bombs that shred the bodies of children abroad.
16 We deserve media that reflects the interest and
17 well being of the people, not the greedy
18 machinations of CEO's that care nothing otherwise
19 of their fellow human beings.

20 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you for your
21 comments.

22 MR. ATHERTON: The media is already

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1 too big, and I ask you to stand against this
2 imperial expansion.

3 Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Mr. Friedman, Ryan
6 Morden, Patty Garcia. And while you are coming
7 forward let me call a few more more names of
8 people. Susan Rynas, Bob Foedisch, Ann Eachus,
9 Dick Lee, Tom Stiles, Kath Bauman, Timothy Corey,
10 Brent Bartlett, Mark Taylor-Canfield, Brian
11 Lally.

12 Patty Garcia, please.

13 MS. GARCIA: Thanks. It's getting
14 late, but I wanted to stick it out if you did.
15 My name is Patty Garcia. I'm a citizen. I have
16 multiple sclerosis, and it's not easy for me to
17 attend hearings like this. I came here today
18 because I wanted to be counted as opposing any
19 further loosening of restrictions on media
20 ownership.

21 I'm glad I came. The free expression
22 I've heard tonight has been much more

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1 entertaining and informative than anything I
2 would have watched on television.

3 (Applause.)

4 MS. GARCIA: More and more we are
5 losing exposure to the widest variety of
6 information. I believe that diversity and
7 exposure to diversity is important for us as
8 individuals and as a nation. When more of our TV
9 stations, radio stations, and newspapers can be
10 controlled by fewer corporations, we lose.

11 Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Susan Rynas. Bob
14 Foedisch.

15 MR. TAYLOR-CANFIELD: Right here.
16 Over here.

17 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Sir, have already
18 I called your name? Is that why you're there?
19 What is your name, please?

20 MR. TAYLOR-CANFIELD: My name is Mark
21 Taylor-Canfield.

22 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Mark Taylor-

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1 Canfield. I did call your name earlier?

2 MR. TAYLOR-CANFIELD: Yes.

3 MODERATOR SIGALOS: I don't see it
4 here.

5 MR. TAYLOR-CANFIELD: About 30 seconds
6 ago.

7 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Oh, I'm not to you
8 yet. Just one moment.

9 MR. TAYLOR-CANFIELD: Thank you.

10 MODERATOR SIGALOS: I called the names
11 to come down. I'm sorry.

12 Please, Mr. Foedisch.

13 MR. FOEDISCH: She's right. That
14 light is bright.

15 My name is Bob Foedisch. I came down
16 here. I'm a citizen.

17 MODERATOR SIGALOS: You're okay, sir.
18 Please go ahead.

19 MR. FOEDISCH: And I am basically
20 against this idea. And I think I know why it's
21 being perpetrated. It's called groupthink. In
22 the boardroom, everybody has to agree with the

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1 CEO. And then that groupthink mentality has
2 spread outside the boardroom.

3 And another thing I'm concerned about
4 is that you haven't been doing your jobs. We now
5 have, you know, there's been -- for years there's
6 been studies of violence on TV and its impact on
7 children. You've done nothing about that.
8 There's porn on cable. My God. It just goes on
9 and on. And you've done nothing about that. And
10 we cannot as citizens from cable pick and choose
11 the programs we want. We have to take the whole
12 package whether we want it or not. That's
13 garbage. That's not democracy. And this media
14 consolidation also is not democracy.

15 Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

18 Ann Eachus. Ann Eachus, Dick Lee.

19 MR. LEE: Dick Lee here, 257. I'm not
20 here to insult or control you. I'm here to
21 intimidate and threaten you. Just kidding.

22 You know, I no longer listen to or

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1 even read mainstream corporate media. I mean
2 even NPR or PBS is an insult to informed and
3 responsible citizens. It's what we call
4 exploding propaganda. But our news is the most
5 essential function in a democracy. You can't
6 have one without independent objective media, and
7 so we have neither now.

8 In its absence, you know, we've got a
9 corporate crime syndicate that's stolen
10 elections, and not just stolen elections, but our
11 airwaves. So, you know, we now have the best
12 government corporate money can buy. It's called
13 fascism. And.

14 How bad is it? How bad is it? Ask
15 the relatives of Canadian, German, or American
16 citizens kidnapped and tortured because of their
17 ethnic backgrounds now. More to the point ask
18 the relatives of 1.2 million Iraqi civilians
19 killed in a media promoted criminal war. This is
20 what we have devolved into with our corporatized,
21 monopolized media. It's a media you wish to
22 further destroy. You know, if that's even

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1 possible. So you've become a terrorist to our
2 democracy. You, in fact -- our media is our
3 enemy today.

4 (Applause.)

5 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you. Tom
6 Stiles.

7 MR. STILES: Good evening. Thank you
8 for coming. Thank you for staying. My name is
9 Tom Stiles. I've been involved in the commercial
10 and public radio broadcasting for 35 about years
11 in the Northwest. More recently also public
12 access TV. My father, Keith Stiles, is age 81.
13 He volunteers for a public radio station in rural
14 Pierce County. It is KGHP FM.

15 Twenty years ago he and two of his
16 radio engineer friends started KGHP at Peninsula
17 High School. It would be a local radio station
18 addressing local issues, providing an opportunity
19 for young people to learn broadcasting and find
20 their own voice, and communicating locally in
21 times of emergency, like last year's, last
22 December's power outages with the big storm we

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1 had here.

2 Recently initiative by a large
3 broadcasting conglomerate to gain license in this
4 area nearly robbed KGHP and Mercer Island High
5 School station KMIH of the ability to fulfill
6 their mission. Fortunately, due to the efforts,
7 ongoing efforts, of the staff of those stations,
8 the attorneys they had to employ, and the direct
9 support of Senator Maria Cantwell of Washington
10 locally those stations are still on the air doing
11 what they need to do, supporting their community.

12 I don't officially represent KGHP. I
13 talk about it over dinner with my Dad sometimes.
14 I listen to it. I appreciate it. And I've
15 appreciated community radio and community affairs
16 all my life. So I value that as a resource.

17 I asked my dad what he would say if he
18 were here to speak on behalf of KGHP. He said he
19 wouldn't actually speak on behalf of the radio
20 station, but on his own behalf as a concerned
21 citizen. He's a World War II veteran, feeling
22 that media ownership consolidation does not serve

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1 the public interest that is entrusted to the
2 FCC, and I share that sentiment. Thank you very
3 much.

4 (Applause.)

5 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Kath Bauman.
6 Timothy Corey. Brent Bartlett. Mark
7 Taylor-Canfield.

8 MR. TAYLOR-CANFIELD: My name is Mark
9 Taylor-Canfield, and for the record I'm a
10 freelance journalist with Free Speech Radio News
11 and with KBCS, who's been covering these hearings
12 tonight live along with the Pacific Radio
13 Network. And I'm also on the Board of Directors
14 for a nonprofit multimedia group called the
15 Northwest CyberArtists, and I also was a co-
16 founder of the local Community for Government
17 Accountability. I realize this has been a very
18 long and contentious hearing, but -- and I thank
19 Commissioner Adelstein and Copps for helping this
20 happen.

21 But in the fine tradition of
22 journalism, I have to come here tonight to

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1 challenge this entire process, the way that the
2 decision has been made by the Commission. And
3 the reason is because I had an interview earlier
4 this year a news story I did with Professor
5 Danilo Yanich who is the director of the Masters
6 and Ph.D program at the University of Delaware.
7 And an internal FCC report based on independent
8 research conducted by Professor Yanich was leaked
9 to Congress.

10 This study revealed that contrary to
11 the claims of the large media corporations and
12 their affiliates, corporate media consolidation
13 does not add to more local news coverage in
14 communities in the U.S.

15 In the interview with Professor
16 Yanich, he told me that his study, which was
17 submitted to the FCC, was buried because it did
18 not agree with current U.S. government policy or
19 policies of the FCC. Professor Yanich maintains
20 that the Commission's suppression of the data was
21 a violation of federal law.

22 Now, I haven't seen much of this in

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1 the media, and the fact that we're not talking
2 about it tonight and that it took to the end of
3 this hearing to bring this up is an indication of
4 the state of journalism in the U.S.

5 According to other public testimony,
6 other academic reports, including report by the
7 Benton Foundation and by the public interest group
8 Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting were also
9 ignored. What this means is that their findings
10 which are showing that media consolidation is bad
11 for local news is not being used.

12 To quote Professor Yanich, he said I
13 could use -- he gave me permission to quote him.
14 "The suppression of that study made public what a
15 lot of people have now been hearing and hearing
16 about the situation at the FCC for" --

17 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

18 MR. TAYLOR-CANFIELD: -- "a number of
19 years. That research is really used to
20 principally support policy decisions that have
21 already been made and not..." --

22 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you very

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1 much.

2 MR. TAYLOR-CANFIELD: -- "policy
3 decision making, any kind of guidance."
4 Gentlemen, I have yet to hear a reasonable
5 response to any of those accusations.

6 Thank you.

7 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Ryan Lawly.

8 MR. LAWLEY: Members of the FCC
9 Commission, ladies and gentlemen, listening to a
10 number of the viewpoints that have been expressed
11 this evening, you may be thinking to yourself,
12 well, see, this just proves our point. There is
13 a great diversity of ideas that have been
14 expressed here this evening. Surely more
15 consolidation will not negatively impact that
16 diversity. But remember, there's a small
17 minority of the population that are in attendance
18 here this evening, and I dare suggest that they
19 are perhaps a little more strong-willed than the
20 average person.

21 And I think we must also remember the
22 minds and viewpoints of children. There is

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1 nothing as helpless as a child, whether it be to
2 ideas introduced to it by television or various
3 forms of media, or of course, by any other
4 influence, maybe its parents. A child's idea of
5 who he or she is and the world in which he or she
6 lives is influenced to a great degree by the
7 media it is exposed to and I think that a great
8 amount of that is coming from television.

9 Plato wrote in Timaeus of the Lost
10 Continent of Atlantis. And regardless of whether
11 or not you believe it actually existed, the
12 story, I think, presents a very interesting
13 allegory for today's world, particularly in
14 regards to this issue. He told of this nation
15 which became very technologically advanced but
16 also very greedy. Its morality was behind its
17 technology. And because of its greed it
18 eventually destroyed itself.

19 I thank you for your consideration.

20 (Applause.)

21 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you. Julie
22 Chang-Schulman. If you'll just hold one minute,

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1 I'm going to call a few more names. The
2 following people please come forward. By the
3 way, I'm calling on number 264 right now, April
4 Nishimura, Philip Condit, Catherine Jones, Peter
5 Cannon, Tom Nesbitt, Carl Guthe, Bill Noble, Jodi
6 Whitehead, Jerome Chroman.

7 Julie, please.

8 MS. CHANG-SCHULMAN: I'm Julie. I'm
9 an English teacher, independent media producer.
10 I'm a hip-hop artist and a community organizer,
11 but tonight I am here to speak to you as a
12 survivor, as a young women who has fallen victim
13 to the images and the values and stereotypes that
14 are embodied by corporate media. I am here
15 speaking for what is called the Children of the
16 Night and the Future Children of the Night.

17 I first heard this term when I was in
18 juvenile detention in Las Vegas, when I was being
19 held and charged with prostitution at age 14. I
20 was guilty. You see, I was the first born
21 daughter of an immigrant, two working parents. I
22 was a latchkey kid and cable baby in a middle

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1 class suburban neighborhood with few friends and
2 a love for music.

3 I started listening to radio at -- on
4 1250 AM when it was still Kidstar in Seattle,
5 before it was bought by Disney after '96 when I
6 was 11 years old and started airing the same
7 oversexed pop stars as everyone else. And as I
8 grew to that age, that coming of age that does
9 come, the impact of the Telecom Act deteriorated
10 the quality of contacts that was not just most
11 accessible to me, but also most attractive to me.
12 All of this, of course, is in retrospect.

13 But when young people, especially
14 young women in this country are constantly
15 bombarded with the glorification of sex and money
16 perpetuated by corporate outlets, coupled by the
17 constant objectification of their body, you put
18 us at risk. And I'm not blaming corporate media
19 or the FCC, for my being pimped, raped, and used
20 over and over and not being cool. I'm here and
21 I'm fine. I'm not even asking you to take
22 responsibility for the thousands out there who

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1 aren't.

2 All I'm asking tonight for you, the
3 FCC, is to -- I'm asking tonight for you to not
4 again lax the rules, for the 10 and 12 and 11
5 year olds, whatever, the babies right now who you
6 will put at risk if you choose again to loosen
7 ownership rules that govern the airwaves they
8 grow up under the influence of. And please don't
9 make it more difficult for us as the people on
10 the ground to be a positive counter-influence.
11 Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you. April
14 --

15 MS. NISHIMURA: Just tell us how much
16 they'll pay you to shut us up, and we'll all
17 double it. Barring that, please represent us or
18 leave.

19 (Applause.)

20 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Philip Condit.
21 Catherine Jones. Peter Cannon.

22 MR. CANNON: Hello. My name is Peter

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1 Cannon. I'm a Seattle native. Today I'm
2 speaking to you because this topic is really
3 about the United States of America and its
4 future. Listen to me. Understand me. I am
5 speaking for people that would be here if they
6 could.

7 The combination of increasing cost of
8 living and the greed of big business is
9 overwhelming for most Americans to keep up with.
10 That is why I'm here today. What I can say for
11 me about me is that the message that we as a
12 people received from the media are fear based.
13 And so the story goes of our daily lives trying
14 to survive economically and being happy.

15 I am not in the least worried about
16 something I cannot control -- a terrorist attack,
17 an earthquake, a winter flood that is sure to
18 happen this winter. We as a country are being
19 lulled into submission by being strategically
20 disconnected from our rights as Americans.

21 The reality is this: These are all
22 multibillion dollar companies. General Electric,

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